

The claims stand rejected on obviousness-type double patenting grounds as allegedly being unpatentable over Claims 1-50 of U.S. Patent No. 5,760,538. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Claim 57 has been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the claims of the '538 patent.

The electron beam apparatus in Claim 57 includes a vacuum envelope containing a plurality of electron-emitting devices wired by a matrix of row-directed wires and column-directed wires, and a plate-shaped spacer capable of forming an electrical connection between the plurality of wires. The spacer is in electrical contact with only one wire of the row-directed or column-directed wires. As amended, Claim 57 recites that either the row-directed wires are laminated over the column-directed wires or the column-directed wires are laminated over the row-directed wires, and the spacer is in electrical contact with one of the wires that are laminated over the other wires.

None of the claims in the '538 patent recite or suggest, among other features, an electron beam apparatus wherein the spacer is in electrical contact with one of either the row or column-directed wires which are laminated over the other of the column-directed or row-directed wires.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the

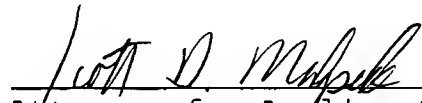
obviousness-type double patenting rejection is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 58 and 60-63 are also submitted to be distinct from the claims of the '538 patent for the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 57 and because of additional recited features. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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